

Message Text

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R 130810Z SEP 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0520

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJ: KURDISH DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BAGHDAD 0455

1. KDP-INSTIGATED STRIKE ON AUGUST 24 APPARENTLY QUITE EFFECTIVE SINCE BAATH PAPER ATH-THAWRA STRONGLY CRITICIZED IT IN LONG, UNUSUALLY FRANK, EDITORIAL AUGUST 28 (ASSUME TEXT IN FBIS). GIST OF EDITORIAL WAS THAT MAJORITY OF KURDS RECOGNIZE THEY ARE IRAQI AND WISH TO SEE IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH MANIFESTO. KDP LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, IS ACCUSED OF BEING DANGEROUSLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH MASSES ("KURDIS PEOPLE HAVE GRANTED SUPPORT TO KDP FOR SPECIAL, NOT ABSOLUTE, TERMS"). EDITORIAL ALSO MAKES CLEAR, AS COMMUNIST PARTY HAS ALREADY (REFTEL), THAT KDP IS NOT ONLY PARTY TO REPRESENT KURDS AND THIS WOULD BE EVIDENT IN NORTH IF NOT FOR FACT THAT "GUN IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY".

2. ATH-THAWRA CLAIMS PEOPLE OF IRAQ SUPPORT NATIONAL UNITY, STABILITY, NATIONALIZATION ACT, AND NATIONAL FRONT. WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH MANIFESTO, IT SAYS BAATH HAS "CARRIED OUT ALL CLAUSES THAT FALL TO
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IT AND IT NOW REMAINS FOR KDP TO DISCHARGE ITS DUTY".

EDITORIAL ENDS WITH WARNING THAT IF NATIONAL AUTHORITY HAD BEEN PRESENT IN NORTH - "AND IT CAN BE IF IT WISHES" - OUTCOME OF STRIKE WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DIFFERENT.

3. KDP AT-TAAKHI REPLIED TO ATH-THAWRA IN LONG EDITORIAL OF SEP 11. MAIN POINTS WERE: THAT BAATH VERY WRONG IN ITS JUDGEMENT OF TRUE ASPIRATIONS OF KURDISH PEOPLE AND IN "BELITTling POWER OF OUR PARTY AND IMMENSE CAPABILITIES LATENT IN KURDISH REVOLUTION AND IN BARZANI'S LEADERSHIP. WHAT IS PITIFUL IS IF THIS MISJUDGEMENT NOT CORRECTED SOON IT MAY LEAD COUNTRY TO MANY MISERIES AS IT DID IN THE PAST." AT-TAAKHI ASKS WHY SHOULD SUCCESSFUL PEACEFUL POLITICAL STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF KURDISH MOVEMENT BE CONSIDERED ISOLATED FROM MASSES WHEREAS SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS OFFICIALLY ARRANGED IN BAGHDAD ARE CONSIDERED MASS SUPPORT?

4. AT-TAAKHI CLAIMS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ASPB AND KDP AND CONFIDENCE WHICH WAS EVIDENT AFTER MARCH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SHATTERED AND ASKS WHY THIS ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE NATIONAL STRUCTURE (I.E. ARABIZATION). ALSO OTHER ISSUES LIKE PARTICIPATION IN RULE AND EQUAL RIGHTS HAVE CREATED SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER MARCH AGREEMENT TO BE IMPLEMENTED. IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT STRIKE WAS AT GUN POINT PAPER SAYS WHOLE KURDISH PEOPLE SUPPORT AIMS OF THE STRIKE AND CONDEMN POLICY OF CHANGING THE NATIONAL STRUCTURE. "WE DO NOT DENY INFLUENTIAL ROLE OUR PARTY PLAYED IN MAKING STRIKE A SUCCESS BUT WE BELIEVE BAATH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE PAST COUPLE YEARS HAD IT NOT BEEN IN POWER."

5. AT-TAAKHI QUESTIONS WHETHER GUN LANGUAGE PREVAILS ONLY IN KURDISTAN AND ASKS WHAT LANGUAGE IS USED IN SOUTH AND MIDDLE OF IRAQ. IT STRONGLY OBJECTS TO "SUPPORT WITH MONEY AND ARMS BY THE AUTHORITIES OF CERTAIN TRENDS FOR PURPOSE OF FIGHTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE KURDISH MOVEMENT." EDITORIAL ENDS BY SAYING KDP NEVER CLAIMED TO REPRESENT ALL KURDS, BUT IT IS THE KURDISH PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT AND AUTONOMY FOR KURDISTAN IS ISSUE FOR EVERY KURD. IT IS READY TO IMPLEMENT LETTER AND SPIRIT OF MARCH AGREEMENT.

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